

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. -51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A method of performing nucleic acid amplification on a plurality of biological samples positioned in a sample well tray in a thermal cycling device, comprising:

providing a translatable sample block assembly;

moving the sample block assembly from a first position permitting the placement of
the sample well tray onto a ~~tray-receiving region of a sample well tray holder~~ the thermal cycling
device to a second position permitting thermal cycling within the thermal cycling device;

~~independently translating-positioning the sample well tray holder and a~~ onto the sample
block assembly to engage the sample well tray to the sample block assembly ~~and to align the~~
~~sample well tray with an optical detection system, wherein to align comprises translating the~~
~~sample well tray holder to bring the optical detection system and the nucleic amplification~~
~~samples into direct optical alignment; and~~

maintaining the upper portion of the thermal cycling device substantially stationary; and
thermally cycling the device to provide nucleic acid amplification.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the second position permitting alignment of the sample well tray with an optical detection system, and detecting the nucleic acid amplification during thermal cycling.